Government wanted to know whether the ryots concerned were prepared to pay a small water cess. It has now been ascertained that they are willing to pay the water cess which will come to a little over a rupee per acre. The estimates for the reservoir and the dam have been sent up to Government and I am sure early orders will be passed thereon.

Mr. Marikar also complains that officers do not visit that part the country at all, at any rate, not as often as they ought to. Till n of it has been rather difficult for people to go there but, now that ow Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road has been completed and that the Neriamangalam Bridge will also be completed soon, I think Mr. Marikar can expect more visits from officers hereafter. I can assure him that I will take the earliest opportunity to visit Anjanad, ascertain the needs of the paddy cultivators there and do the needful. If, as Mr. Marikar says, the ryots are still suffering any hardship I will look into the matter personally and advise Government as to what they should do to relieve their distress.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: Is not Anjanad highly feverish?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: It is; one can safely visit the place only in certain seasons.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: In the light of the assurance given by the Land Revenue Commissioner that he will himself visit the locality and do the needful, I withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MANUFACTURE OF SALT FOR CONSUMPTION BY PEOPLE LIVING ON THE SEA COAST.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that bona fide consumers in sea-bordering taluks be permitted to manufacture salt for their own use.*

Sir, I am aware of the clause in the Interportal Trade Convention relating to the adoption of the British Indian monopoly price of salt. But, the provisions of the Interportal Trade Convention apply only for the sale or purchase of salt, or for the reduction or enhancement of duty on salt. My present resolution relates only to the manufacture, by *bona fide* consumers themselves, of salt for home consumption and not for sale.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Are not the Government bound, under the Interportal Trade Convention, to impose a duty of Re. 1 annas 9 per maund even on salt manufactured by *bona fide* consumers?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: The Convention does not specifically say so. It only speaks of purchase or sale of salt, and the enhancement or reduction of the duty on salt. This is what is stated there:

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi.]

"The free admission of all goods, the produce or manufacture of Travancore into British India, salt, opium and spirits excepted.

The adoption of British Indian rates of duty on all foreign goods imported into Travancore excepting the articles above mentioned.

An undertaking not to levy duties lighter than those obtaining in British India on imports.

The adoption of the British Indian tariff valuation.

The adoption of the British Indian monopoly price of salt."

Now, we are not asking for the right to sell salt, or for an enhancement or reduction of duty. Travancore is a sea-bordering State. When nature has given us all facilities for the production of salt..... ...

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I ask whether, in the event of the people being allowed the right for free manufacture of salt, it will not cease to be a monopoly ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I do not see how there can be any objection for any body taking a cup of sea-water and making salt out of it. I do not see how it violates the Interportal Trade Convention or the monopoly in the manufacture and sale of salt.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I ask whether the use of salt, manufactured by a certain individual, by the members of his family does not amount to sale to the members of the family ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: That does not amount to a sale. If there is a contract it naturally follows that there must be a purchaser, a seller, and consideration for sale. In this case there is nothing like that.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is the member aware that affection is also a consideration for sale ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: That is a gift. In the case of sale there must be some consideration. Here there is no purchasing or selling.

Salt is as much a necessity like air, water and light. It is very hard to tax salt alone for its production. Especially in the days of economic depression, when salt tax has increased, we are getting a larger amount. The revenue has increased to Rs. 3,45,345. The Excise Commissioner says in his report that the revenue was due to the increase of duty on salt and of the increased sale of salt. On going through the schedule attached to the report, you find the increase of sale was only nominal. There has been a fluctuation in duty since the year 1907 to 1931. In 1907 the duty was one rupee, in 1916 one rupee 4 annas, in 1924 one rupee 4 annas, and, in 1931 one rupee 9 annas.

The salt tax is the most oppressive, inequitable and scandalous of indirect taxes affecting the poor and rich alike. The late Mr. Dadabha Naoroji, the Grand Old Man of India, says thus :

"In association with this trade my opinion is the stigma of the salt-tax upon the British name. What a humiliating confession to say that, after the length of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

> the British rule, the people are in such a wretched plight that they have nothing that Government can tax, and that Government must, therefore, tax an absolute necessary of life to an inordinate extent. The slight flash of prosperity during the American War showed how the people of India would enjoy and spend when they have anything to enjoy and spend; and now, can anything be a greater condemnation of the results of British lines of policy than that the people have nothing to spend and enjoy, and pay tax on, but that they must be pinched and starved in a necessary of life"

I shall show, how the other countries consume salt, per head of population in comparison with that of Travancore. England consumes 40 lbs., Portugal 35 lbs. Italy 20 lbs, whereas, in Travancore, the consumption per head of population is only 19·36 lbs.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know from the member whether in other countries there is any duty imposed on salt?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: No, there is absolutely no duty at all. The consumption is greater in countries where salt is not taxed. There is no salt tax in western countries such as England, Portugal, etc. The quantity of salt consumed, per head of population, is also greater, whereas, in countries where the consumption is far less, a heavy duty is imposed. In British India, the consumption stands at 12 lbs. per head of population, whereas, in Travancore it stands at 19½ lbs. per head of population. According to medical opinion, more than 20 lbs. is necessary for vegetable diet. I don't think the manufacture of salt would go against the Interportal Convention. The right to manufacture was even extended to people living in sea-bordering tracts in British India. Why not the same concession be extended to Travancoreans also, who can manufacture salt easily?

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: If we are permitted to manufacture salt free, can we get good salt?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: By all means you can, by scientific process.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Does the member expect that scientific evaporation of salt could be resorted to by every poor man?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: There are so many methods of making pure salt. Everything depends on the process of evaporation. In the matter of making arrack also there are methods of getting pure stuff of that kind. I do not know what exactly Mr. Sankaran wants.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is it the member's opinion that the process adopted for making pure arrack and pure salt is the same?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I only want to get a right for the inhabitants of the sea-bordering taluks to manufacture salt. As for getting pure salt, it is only a matter of detail.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. C. M. JOSEPH (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): കടലോരത്തിലുള്ള താലൂക്കുകാരെ മാത്രമെ ഇതു ബാധിക്കയൊള്ളോ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: അതേ. വീട്ടിന്റെ നടയിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന വെള്ളത്തിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പു എടുത്തുകൂടെന്നു പറയുന്നതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണ്.

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: അങ്ങിനെ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കി ഞങ്ങൾക്കുകൂടി കൊടുത്തയക്കുമോ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: മെമ്പറുടെ താലൂക്കു കടലോരമല്ലാതെയുള്ള സ്ഥലത്താണോ?

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: അതേ.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: അപ്പോൾ കടലോരത്തേയ്ക്ക് മാറിതാമസിക്കണം.

MR. J. JOHN KATTAKAYAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): അങ്ങിനെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു ദുഷ്യമില്ലേ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: ഒരു ദുഷ്യവുമില്ല.

MR. J. JOHN KATTAKAYAM: മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാട് മുതലായ താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ആളുകൾ കായലിൽ കച്ചിഅരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവന്ന ഉപ്പു ഉപയോഗിച്ചതുനിമിത്തം അവക്ക് പല അസുഖങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു മെമ്പക്കറിയാമോ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: അതു ശരിയായിരിക്കും. എന്നാൽ കടൽവെള്ളത്തിൽനിന്നും എടുക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പിനു അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ദോഷമില്ല.

MR. J. JOHN KATTAKAYAM: ഈ വ്യത്യാസത്തിനു കാരണമെന്താണ്?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: കടൽവെള്ളംകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ എല്ലാസമയത്തും നല്ല ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ആളും നോക്കിയാലെ അറിയാവൂ. കായലിൽനിന്നും കച്ചി അരിച്ചെടുക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പു, മടൽ ചുട്ടുകരിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നഉപ്പു ഇതൊന്നും ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ കൊള്ളുകയില്ല. മടലിൽനിന്നും എടുക്കുന്നഉപ്പു മുണ്ടലക്കാനെ കൊള്ളുവൂ.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: Will the member be satisfied, to satisfy the demands of the people living in the country, if the country is made self-sufficient in the matter of manufacture of salt?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: That is a different matter and I will come to that later on. We have sufficient facilities for the production of salt and I trust the Excise Commissioner will do all he can to increase the production of salt.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: Am I to understand from the member that he is demanding only the right to manufacture salt?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Yes. The incidence of taxation per head of population has increased considerably in Travancore. Such being the case, I submit, at least people living in sea-bordering taluks be given the right to manufacture salt. If the right is given, I don't think any objection will be raised by Government for that. That right can be exercised without any harm either to Government or to people. Even last year, we had to import salt to the extent of 2,25,933 maunds, and it works out to more than 2 lbs. of salt per head of population.

MR. K. GEORGE: Then, will not a preventive staff be necessary to see that the salt manufactured free is not sold outside?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: There is the department for that. Under the Regulation persons who carry on illicit propaganda such as manufacture of salt and selling it outside will be punished.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Does the member say that this right to manufacture salt should be exercised by a family or by a village?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: It is enough if the manufacture is done by the head of the family.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Why not a village be given that right?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Not necessary.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: If there are co-operative credit societies in coastal regions, could they be given sanction to manufacture salt?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: First of all, let the right be given. We will exercise that, in our best way, without prejudice to Government or to people. We will work it without causing any injury to people. We have a right to support Government in the matter of revenue which will go to the benefit of the people. Such a privilege is given to people in some parts of British India.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is it the member's idea that with the manufacture of salt from coastal regions, it must be consumed only by the inhabitants of those areas?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: The resolution does not say anything like that.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: How can you detect the manufacture of salt done by the people of the coastal regions, and by others?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: The right is to be exercised by persons inhabiting the coastal regions. That is what my resolution urges to Government.

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: സീകോസ്റ്റിലുള്ള ആളുകാം മക്കളെ വല്ല ദൂരസ്ഥലത്തും വിവാഹം ചെയ്തു കൊടുത്തിരിക്കാം. അങ്ങിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ മക്കാം പാക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തേയ്ക്ക വീട്ടിലുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പുകുടികാറെ കൊടുത്തയച്ചു എന്നു വരികയില്ലേ?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: The resolution does not go to that extent. You are dealing with the selling of salt to outside people.

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: വിലയ്ക്കല്ല, സമ്മാനമായിട്ട കൊടുത്തയച്ചു എന്നു വരുമോ?

MR. P. PADAMANNBHAN TAMPI: അതു സീകോസ്റ്റിലുള്ള ആളുകളിൽ നിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ആളുകാംക്കു പോകുന്നല്ലോ. നടയിൽകിടക്കുന്നവെള്ളം ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു എന്താണ് ദോഷം? അതു പാടില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് ഒരക്രമമല്ലേ?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Will not the Government permit even the modest demand of taking a cup of brine from the sea?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: No. It is an offence under the Regulation.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Will it not be sufficient if an individual who is living in the coastal tract is allowed to take a cup of brine for the preparation of food materials?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: A person who is accustomed to a better mode of eating may know that. However it is not advisable to pour salt water in our vegetable dishes.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: I am asking the question, because my friend was referring to the scientific process to be adopted for getting pure salt.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I am not a scientist. It is only a matter of detail, so far as evaporation of sea-water is concerned. I hope my friend will be satisfied with this answer.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): If the manufacture is confined to the inhabitants of the coastal regions, will not the work of prevention have to be added onto it?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Yes. There may be greater work for preventive officers. That should not be the reason why the right to manufacture salt should be denied to the people.

Again, I beg to point out that the use of air, light, water and salt are all identical. One cannot live without the help of any of these things. If the Government should tax salt, why not I ask, water also

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be taxed. It has been pointed out by many great men, that levying tax on salt is the most unjust action a Government could do. We are directly under the suzerain power of the British Government. If English men can enjoy that privilege, why not the poor Travancoreans also possess that right, which is an absolute necessity of life. With these words I strongly commend my resolution for the acceptance of the House and request my brother members to consider the question liberally and see that the right is granted.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR : I second the resolution before the House. There are different kinds of salt in Travancore such as the Bombay and Tinnevelly salt. Further, richer class of people import salt from England for their consumption.

Two grades of salt are used here, one is table salt, purified, which is used by the richest of the people, and the other Bombay salt or Tinnevelly salt which is used by the poor people. If the sea-coast people are permitted to manufacture salt, they may not be manufacturing salt of the same quality as the salt manufactured by the contractors. But that is enough for the poor people. And there will not be any worry for the excise people also because many people will not prefer to take the salt manufactured by these people.

MR. K. GEORGE: Will it not be deleterious to the health of the people?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Their health will not be affected. For they are used to the roughest sort of life; they starve, and they swallow anything they get.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Do they want salt at all?

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Yes, they want salt for taste. It is only for such people that this exemption is asked for.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I also wish to say a few words on this all important question—a question for the proper solution of which our revered Mahatmaji took the famous Dandi march and went to jail. Circumscribed as we are, I feel, there are very many practical difficulties in giving effect to this resolution in its present form. (Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, *hear, hear.*) But I am in full agreement with the principles underlying the resolution. So long as the Inter-portal Convention is in force, the supply and sale of salt will have to be conducted as a State monopoly and our Government are bound to impose the salt duty fixed from time to time in British India by the Imperial Government. So, the free manufacture of salt by private persons cannot be allowed. But we can do very many things in other directions, *viz.*, we can make, as Mr. Sivarama Panickar suggested, our country self-supporting in the matter of production of salt. We can also supply salt as cheap as possible.

During the administration of Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao a conference of salt officers was held in Travancore under his presidency

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. N. Parameswaran Pillai.]

and the extention of salt culture was resolved upon. It was also resolved at that conference that the State should be made independent of foreign salt by encouraging home manufacture. As the result of the conference, we find new salt manufacturers from outside, such as the Avadhanials who were invited into the State, and new factories were opened in Tamaracolam. Since then nothing very substantial has been done towards the development of the salt industry.

Travancore, as we all know, has got large and extensive sea-boards and I am confident she can manufacture every grain of salt that is required for consumption by her people. But it is a matter for regret that large quantities of salt are imported into the State every year from Bombay and Tinnevelly and no attempt is made by the Excise Department to make the State self-supporting. We find from the Administration Report that the total quantity of salt, home as well as foreign, required for consumption in the State for the year 1107 was 1,200,611 maunds. Including the balance of the previous year the total home salt available for 1107 was 21,36,451 maunds.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. This resolution is not about salt culture in Travancore. It raises only one issue.

PRESIDENT: I think he is right.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: In spite of that, in 1107 our Government imported into the State 216,688 maunds of foreign salt from Bombay and Tinnevelly.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know from the member what was the total out-put of salt in the State in 1107?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I have already said that. Including the balance of 1106 it was more than 21 lakhs of maunds.

My submission is that this policy of importing foreign salts especially in years when there is surplus production in the country has to be severely condemned. In some years we also find that the Excise Commissioners have destroyed large quantities of home salt manufactured in our alloms. We also find from the Administration Report that even in the area that is now under salt culture no intensive manufacture is made. We find there are more than 76 acres of waste pans which have to be developed.

Again we find, Sir, that there are very many serious defects in the policy followed by the department. Owing to the indiscriminate grant of lands to the various licensees there is not sufficient brine in the Manakudi lake for the use of all the factories. Consequently the entire lands granted are not being fully and properly utilised by the licensees. Then again we find that owing to the close proximity of these factories there is not sufficient space to carry the water of the Pazhayar to the sea. This results in loss both to the licensees and to the Government during heavy rains and floods. Undue preference and partial treatments are shown to some of the licensees.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT: I think you are wandering from the point now. I magined that you were looking at this resolution from the point of view of the production of more home salt. But you are wandering from that now.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I am speaking on that point. I am pointing out the defects in the policy followed by the department which work against greater production of home salt.

Another defect, Sir, is in the matter of transport of salt. Frequent transport of salt from the alloms has not been insisted upon. Owing to this the licensees are not able to get their *kudivila* and they find it difficult to start manufacture in the next season.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, the resolution says that people in taluks bordering the sea may be allowed to manufacture the salt. I do not know for what purpose these arguments are advanced.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: At the outset I said I am not for the resolution, as it is moved by Mr. Tampi. But I accept the principle underlying his resolution, viz., that salt should be supplied as cheap as possible. I think that is the principle for which Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi is now fighting. I may say in this connection that at present besides the duty of Re. 1 annas 9 per maund there is also another levy on salt which is known as "recoveries." We find that a forecast of Rs. 2 lakhs and odd is made under "recoveries" in the budget for 1109. In 1107 the actual receipts under "recoveries" was Rs. 3 lakhs and odd. This works out at the rate of 4 annas and odd per maund. My submission is that it is high time to remove such an iniquitous and unjust tax levied on salt. Salt is a prime necessary of life which as Professor Fawcett said should be as free as the air we breathe and the water we drink.

MR. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: It is on that principle that I moved this resolution.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I am thankful to the member for explaining his position. My point is that instead of allowing the people who live on the sea sides to manufacture salt free, it will be better for the Government to make the supply and sale of salt cheaper than it is now.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: May I ask the member whether he is suggesting an amendment to the original resolution?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I have no objection in considering it as an amendment; if the Chair would permit me, I shall move it as an amendment.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Should there not be notice?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: The President has got the power to permit an amendment to be moved at shorter notice.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Sir, I am sorry I am not able to agree with Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi in his view that the general principle

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Govindan.]

of taxation should be that in the case of such an article of universal consumption as salt, a product very much like air and water, there should be no taxation. If that principle is to be extended then our land tax is equally unjust. Earth is one of the five elements.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Does the member know while all persons are not paying land tax, all persons have to pay salt tax?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: For that very reason I say there is more justification for levying salt tax than for levying land tax. Government, because salt tax is universally distributed, can expect that its incidence will not weigh heavily on each individual and it does not.....

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: A question, Sir.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Let me finish my sentence. If the incidence of taxation is distributed among all people, then it will not weigh heavily. It will be only imperceptible. We are paying a few cash per mensem without our knowing it.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Does the member know that in England, Portugal, Italy and other places tax is not imposed on salt?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: I have not learned the politics in those countries. If that is so, I would advise those Governments to levy a salt tax rather than levy tax on some other things on which they are now levying tax and carrying on costly administrations.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Does the member advocate the levying of a poll tax?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: This is also like a universal poll tax. Poll tax is considered objectionable. The name is abnoxious owing to its associations.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is the member aware that the French Revolution was caused on account of the salt tax?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Very unfortunate if it was so. The salt tax is a proper tax. The Government machinery has to be run. We want a progressive administration. We have to contribute to the cost of it. The question resolves itself into this. How are we to raise money for meeting the cost? The best way of doing it is by making all people pay according to their ability and a light salt tax within their means. I cannot think of a more just taxation than the salt tax. With these words, I oppose the resolution.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: Does not the beggar in the street, the unemployed and disabled pay salt tax?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: They are also paying. In fact we are protecting them. Their person is taken care of by the State. And so they have to make contribution. For, this indirect taxation is one of the best ways of levying tax for the purpose of meeting the cost of administration.

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PRESIDENT: Nobody else wishes to speak?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sir, my task in opposing the resolution of Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi has been lightened by the comments made by some of the members. Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi's resolution is open to objection on two grounds. In the first place in the nature of obligations we have entered into with the Government of India and in view of the law in force in Travancore, the privilege of manufacturing salt for consumption cannot be freely accorded to anybody in Travancore. In the second place, it is not a practical proposition. Mr. Tampi has foreseen the objection based on the agreement with the Government of India and he has answered that objection by saying that he would plead for permission to manufacture salt not for sale but only for home consumption. If it is possible to distinguish manufacture of salt for home consumption from manufacture of salt for sale, it may be conceded that the objection based on the agreement with the Government of India would not stand. But I submit that it is not possible to draw a line between the manufacture of salt for home consumption and the manufacture of salt for sale. If every household is to be permitted to manufacture salt, then it will be open to the objection pointed out by Mr. Govindan that our revenues will go down to a great extent. Houses in Travancore are scattered throughout the whole State. They are not grouped into villages as in British India. So in Travancore there is the possibility of salt manufactured for one house being easily sold to another house. To whatever extent we may strengthen the preventive force it will be impossible to prevent smuggling. I would also point out that the manufacture of salt for home consumption is not far different from the manufacture of salt for sale and if that privilege is to be accorded to each household I do not know where we would be able to stop it.

Under the Salt Regulation as it stands the manufacture of salt may be undertaken only under a license issued by Government.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI: റിസവ്വിൽ കിളിപ്പുവ രുന്ന പുകയില റിസവ്വിനകത്തു താമസിക്കുന്നയാളുകൾക്കു മാത്രം മുറുക്കാൻ ഉപയോഗിപ്പുകൊള്ളട്ടെ എന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചാൽ അതു പ്രായോഗികമായി വരുമോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: This is about tobacco.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: We are discussing about salt and he is asking about tobacco.

PRESIDENT: The qustion is out of order.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI: It is only an analogy.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Coming to the second objection, let us assume for the sake of argument that it is possible for Government to permit unrestricted manufacture of salt, I can easily show that it is not a practical proposition. Salt manufacture is controlled by Government not only for the purpose of revenue but also for safeguarding the health of the people. That is an equally important function as the collection

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[Mr. C. O. Madhavan.]

of revenue itself. Salt manufacture requires a good deal of experience. The common salt which we want for our consumption is sodium chloride. But if the manufacture of salt is not done properly the salt when it crystallises may take along with it magnezium chloride, magnezium sulphate and other deleterious substances found in sea water, which are injurious to human health. I am sure that the health of the people will be seriously prejudiced if they are permitted to use as salt what they may be able to get out of sea water. This is a very important point which the House has to consider in all seriousness.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know from the member the percentage of sodium and magnezium in the salt manufactured by Government in the *Allom*?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Sodium chloride is the common salt that we want. Along with that, magnezium chloride is also found in small quantities. Our salts were analysed by the Industrial Chemist last year and I may inform the member that our salt manufactured in Tamarakulam Factories contains a higher percentage of magnezium salts than the Bombay salt and Karachi salt. That may be the reason why preference is shown particularly in north Travancore to Bombay salt. The Bombay salt contains a higher percentage of sodium chloride than our salt. Even experienced manufacturers in our factories are not able to prepare the best salt. Then what would be the condition of salt manufactured by inexperienced men?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Does the member object to the using of salt crystallised in rocky places or in the sea-bordering places?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Even salt crystallised in rocky places would be objectionable.

In manufacturing salt, I may for the information of the House say that the brine has to undergo two processes. The brine is first taken to the condenser and then to the crystalliser. Before it is taken to the crystalliser tbe deleterious portion is deposited in the condenser. In the crystalliser the brine crystallises and form good salt. Even under these circumstances our salt is not of the highest quality. Then what would be the condition of the salt that can be obtained if each household is manufacturing salt for its own consumption. It is therefore a very serious point for the House to consider whether inexperienced men may be permitted to manufacture salt for their own use.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: നമ്മുടെ ഉപ്പിനെ നല്ലതാക്കാൻ വല്ല ശ്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: We are doing everything possible. First of all there was a proposal to have some experts to supervise the manufacture of salt; but it has now been decided that the Industrial Chemist will do the work. In pursunce to that arrangement a few pans are proposed to be set apart for experimental purposes at the disposal of the Industrial Chemist.

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MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know whether the member has taken any steps for the preparation of table salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Nothing as far as I know. It may be more costly.

MR. P: PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Even if the price is higher, will the member arrange for the preparation of best table salt? Is not the Excise Commissioner ordering manufacture of cocoa brandy and all that?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: As it is, it is not possible to say whether anything can be done in the direction?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: May I ask the member whether, if any private enterprise is forthcoming for undertaking the purification of salt, the Government would encourage it?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Consistently with the Salt Regulation Government would only welcome it.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of the House is that along the sea-border there is no suitable soil for the manufacture of salt. It is not in every soil that we can manufacture salt. The soil should be suitable. For example the soil in the Trivandrum beach is not suitable.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know whether there is any objection to people taking sea water and boiling it down to get salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: If the sea water is boiled the salt will contain all the impurities in the sea water.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Suppose the impurities are taken away by some scientific processes?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I doubt whether the member is speaking of any practical proposition. It may be quite alright in theory for the sake of academical discussion. But here we are concerned with hard facts. I submit, Sir, that along the sea-coast the soil suitable for salt manufacture is very rare.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഉപ്പുണ്ടാവുന്നതിനു കൊ ള്ളാവുന്ന മണ്ണുതാണു?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It must be clayey soil. Then only the brine can stand there till it crystallises. Sandy soil is not suitable for the purpose. Claycy soil is not available in our sea-coast.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Are there places at Kayankolam suitable for salt manufacture?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There may be suitable places by the side of the back-waters but not near the sea. So far as those lands are concerned I had my say at the earlier sitting of the Council.

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[Mr. C. O. Madhavan.]

Now Mr. Tampi's resolution is that the privilege or concession for manufacture of salt should be granted for the sea-bordering taluks. If this be granted there may be taluks where salt water is available from the backwater or the lakes. There will be no justification for denying the privileges to those people who may be able more easily to manufacture salt out of such water than out of the brine from the sea.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the member be pleased to state what is the justification for collecting recoveries from salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Recoveries are intented to cover a lot of expenditure involved in the sale of salt. I submit that as a practical proposition the House can never seriously think of this resolution.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: May I know from the member, Sir, where from this salt tax was introduced into Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Prior to 988 the manufacture of salt was free. The manufacturers shared the product with the Government. It is only after that that restriction was imposed.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: Was it free manufacture?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Yes. It was just like cultivation of paddy. Just like paddy salt also had to be divided between the Government and the producer.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Considering the assurances of the Excise Commissioner, I beg to withdraw the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Is it the pleasure of the House that the resolution be withdrawn?

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-30 P. M. and reassembled at 2-15 P. M.

FILLING OF PANCHAYAT COURTS JUDGES' POSTS BY ELECTION.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Sir, I beg to move that "*This Council recommends to the Government that Panchayat Courts should be solely filled by election*".

When I move this resolution, I am not bringing a new matter for legislation. Even when the Panchayat Courts Regulation was under contemplation and the Bill was discussed there was provision for the election of the members of the Panchayat Courts. Section 7 of the Panchayat Courts Regulation says,—"

> "Provided that Our Government may, by Rules made in that behalf, provide for all or any of the Judges bring elected by the people of the village or villages concerned."

The Panchayat Courts Regulation came into force so far back as 1090 and it is now 19 years since this Regulation was passed. Even though 19 years have passed, the right of election of the Panchayat Judges has not been given to the people. I beg to point out to you, Sir, that there are a number of abuses in the matter of nomination. Even in the last

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